

On the Road

THE RELIEF ROUTE — SR 1

Special Announcement — **DELAWARE ROUTE 7 TO US ROUTE 113** —

June 1993

PUNCHEON RUN CONNECTOR

**Design public hearing
scheduled for July 15th**

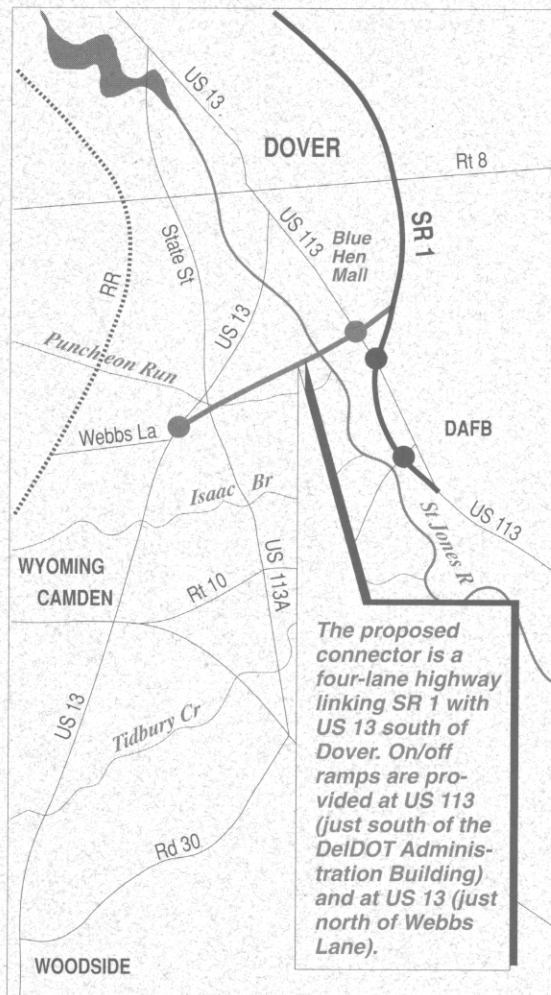
The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has set the date for the design public hearing about the proposed SR 1/US Route 13 South Dover highway connector, known as the Puncheon Run Connector. The hearing will be held on **July 15, 1993, from 4:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Blue Hen Mall Concert Hall, US Route 113 in Dover. (Park in rear of mall; use middle entrance.)** The map at right illustrates the key features of the Puncheon Run Connector.

This hearing provides the opportunity for interested parties to comment on this section of the Relief Route before DelDOT applies to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for design approval.

The public hearing will include two main activities. A "workshop" session will run between 4:00 and 8:00 pm and an "auditorium" session from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. At the workshop session, attendees will have the opportunity to review and discuss the plans with DelDOT representatives, planners and engineers in an informal atmosphere. The auditorium session provides attendees with a formal setting in which to give testimony before an audience. Transportation officials will make a brief presentation about the Puncheon Run Connector of the Relief Route during the auditorium session.

Several exhibits will be shown at the hearing including aerial photography of the Relief Route corridor and preliminary engineering plans of the Puncheon Run/South Dover section. The plans, prepared at a scale of 1"=100', show the limits of the project's right-of-way, as well as details of the design such as interchange ramps, grading, drainage, and property access. DelDOT representatives will be on hand to answer questions about the plans as well as about right-of-way acquisition and relocation procedures.

The design public hearing culminates nearly two years of intensive design and public-involvement efforts including four public workshops at which alternative road alignments were evaluated and compared. The alignment presented at the hearing is the result of this comprehensive process. Information about providing testimony is listed in the sidebar to the right; please try to attend. ■



The "Modified Puncheon Run 2" alignment was selected in August 1992 after a year-long comparative study of more than ten alternative alignments.

Brief history of the Puncheon Run section

In the mid 1980s, DelDOT proposed as a section of the Relief Route, a highway link between the SR 1 east Dover bypass and Route 13 south of Dover. This highway was known as the Puncheon Run Connector since it roughly followed the Puncheon Run, a tributary of the St. Jones River. In addition to the connector itself, this southernmost section of the Relief Route included upgrading Route 13 to a limited-access highway with two-way service roads flanking the highway from south of Dover to Woodside.

("Puncheon Run History" continued on back)



Delaware Department of
Transportation

Anne P. Canby
Secretary

On the Road is published periodically by the Delaware Department of Transportation and is the official newsletter of SR 1, the US Route 13 Relief Route.

On the Road
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HOW TO GIVE TESTIMONY

- Engineering plans will be on display for one month prior to the hearing—beginning June 15th—between 9 am and 4 pm, at two Dover locations: the DelDOT Administration Building, US Route 113 across from the Blue Hen Mall and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Building, 300 South New Street.

- At the hearing, the public is invited to submit testimony for the record. This may be accomplished by speaking with a court reporter—one-on-one—from 4 to 8 pm or speaking before an audience in an auditorium setting from 7 to 9 pm. All comments will become part of the official transcript of the hearing.

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("Puncheon Run History" continued from front)

In 1987, DelDOT completed the environmental-impact statement (EIS) for the Relief Route—including this Puncheon Run section—and received federal location approval for the overall project. This was a major milestone in the progress of the Relief Route since this approval allowed DelDOT to proceed—highway section by highway section—to the design phase of the project.

Yet public concern about potential negative economic impacts (particularly along south Route 13) prompted DelDOT to commit in the EIS to study again the approved location of the Puncheon Run section prior to beginning the design phase. The design phase of this section was scheduled to begin after the project's early-action sections—including the Smyrna/Dover Bypass—were under construction.

Four years later in 1991, DelDOT began the year-long process of looking at the approved alignment and several alternatives to it. DelDOT conducted a series of four public workshops and technical studies of the alignments. With the help of more than 1,300 participants in the process, the field of eleven alternatives to the 1987-approved corridor suggested at the September 1991 workshop was narrowed down to the selected alignment—"Modified Puncheon Run 2"—in late August 1992.

DelDOT undertook detailed design of this alignment over the past several months to study the specifics of ramp design, property access and other features. This information will be presented for public comment at the design public hearing in July. ■

HOW TO (cont'd.)

- Through the end of July, statements may be mailed to DelDOT, Public Relations, PO Box 778, Dover, DE 19903.
- DelDOT will respond to all comments made at the hearing and received in the mail by July 31st in a report prepared as part of the application for design approval submitted to FHWA. A future issue of *On the Road* will note where copies for public review will be available.

TO OUR READERS

The State of Delaware and the consultant team are committed to continuing the citizen-input process during the design and construction phases of the project. We invite you to write us with questions or comments regarding *On the Road* or to arrange for a presentation to bring your group up to date on the Relief Route. To receive your free copy of *On the Road* as well as other mailings related to the project, please write or call us with your request.

CONTACT DelDOT

Delaware Department of Transportation
PO Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

- Public Information: contact Michele Ackles, Manager of Public Relations, at 302-739-4313
- Design Issues: contact David DuPlessis, Project Manager, at 302-739-3834
- Environmental Issues: contact Joe Wutka, Location Studies Engineer, at 302-739-4642
- Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation: contact Ira White, Project Acquisitions Manager, at 302-739-2776

Or CONTACT THE CONSULTANT TEAM

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